

(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

COURTS/COURT REPORTERS: Authorizes the issuance of a temporary permit for official court reporting.

DIGEST

Proposed law recognizes a need for qualified official court reporters in underserved courts of the state and authorizes the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters to promulgate regulations as necessary for implementation of temporary permits.

Proposed law provides for a judge to certify to the board the need of a court reporter and the court's inability to identify a certified reporter. Provides that the judge shall provide to the description of duties and may provide a name and resume of a noncertified candidate the judge considers capable of discharging the duties of an official court reporter.

Proposed law provides that upon receipt, the board will advertise the position to certified court reporters and then forward to the judge the names and contact information of any certified court reporter responding to such advertisement.

Proposed law provides that if no certified court reporter responds to the advertisement, the board will evaluate the capabilities of the noncertified candidate submitted by the judge. Requires the board to respond to the judge regarding such evaluation within 60 days of its receipt of the candidate's name.

Proposed law provides that the board may issue a temporary permit to the noncertified candidate if the board determines it is necessary to meet the needs of the court. Provides that the permit shall be valid for one year and may be extended at the board's discretions for an additional year.

Proposed law provides that if the board fails to approve the judge's noncertified candidate, the judge will have the authority to temporarily permit the candidate for a period of one year. Provides that such a candidate must obtain 6 education credits within the year and is limited practicing exclusively for that court or judge and shall not engage in freelance reporting.

Proposed law requires that applicants temporarily permitted by the board are required to select an approved method of court reporting to study and inform the board of a specific plan for acquiring expertise in the use of that method. Provides that temporary permit holders are subject to the jurisdiction of the board and to all laws and rules governing court reporting. Requires permit holders to also obtain 6 education credits within one year and 6 additional education credits if the permit is extended. Limits the permit holder to practice exclusively with the requesting judge or court and prohibits permit holder from engaging in freelance reporting.

Proposed law provides that the temporary permit may be extended for an additional year if the permit holder shows that he is a student, in good standing, at a court reporting school. No further extensions shall be granted after this period expires.

Proposed law provides that the temporary permit holder may sit for any examination offered by the board, and upon completing the requirements for certification in one of the approved methods of court reporting, the permit shall be replaced by a certificate authorizing practice as a certified court reporter.

Proposed law provides that any violation of permit requirements or laws and rules regarding certified court reporters will subject the permit holder to disciplinary proceedings by the board.

(Adds R.S. 37:2556(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds requirement that board respond to judge within 60 days.
2. Adds authority for judge to permit applicant.